

Message Text

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ACTION DHA-02

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TAGS: SHUM, PORG, ID, ICRC
SUBJECT: GOI PLANS FOR RELEASE OF POLITICAL DETAINEES AND ICRC
VISITS TO DETENTION CENTERS

REF: JAKARTA 9900 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. GOI PLANS TO ANNOUNCE DEC. 1 RELEASE OF
8,900 POLITICAL DETAINEES, NAMES AND ADDRESSEES OF WHOM WILL
BE PROVIDED ICRC AND INTERESTED FOREIGN EMBASSIES. PROGRESS
IS REPORTEDLY BEING MADE IN REACHING ICRC-GOI UNDERSTANDING
WHICH WOULD PERMIT RESUMPTION OF ICRC VISIT TO DENTENTION
CENTERS. END SUMMARY.

2. COMMAND FOR RESTORATION OF SECURITY AND ORDER (KOPKAMTIB)
CHIEF OF STAFF ADMIRAL SUDOMO TOLD AMBASSADOR ON JULY 29
THAT GOI WILL ANNOUNCE RELEASE OF 8,900 POLITICAL DETAINEES
ON DECEMBER 1, ALL OF WHOM ARE NOW BEING HELD OUTSIDE JAVA.
PRIOR MENTION OF RELEASE MAY BE MADE IN PRESIDENT SUHARTO'S
AUGUST 17 NATIONAL DAY SPEECH. CENTRE FOR STRATEGIC AND
INTERNATIONAL STUDIES STAFFER LIM BIAN KIE TOLD
AMBASSADOR ON JULY 30 THAT MOST OF THESE RELEASEES WILL
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BE SETTLED IN TRANSMIGRATION AREAS NEAR THEIR ORIGINAL
RESIDENCES. ACCORDING TO LIM, RELEASEES WILL PROBABLY
BE PLACED ON PAROLE FOR ONE YEAR AFTER WHICH, WITH GOOD
CONDUCT, THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO RETURN FULLY TO SOCIETY.

3. LIM BIAN KIE SAID GOI ALSO PLANS TO PERMIT 900 DETAINEES
ON BURU ISLAND TO RETURN TO JAVA AROUND END OF YEAR.

AMONG THIS GROUP WOULD BE SOME INTELLECTUALS, WHO ARE NOT SUITED TO FARMING LIFE, HE SAID.

4. SUDOMO TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT THE NAMES OF THE RELEASEES AND THEIR ADDRESSES WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE ICRC AND TO INTERESTED EMBASSIES. GOI WILL NOT PUBLICLY ANNOUNCE THE NAMES, SUDOMO SAID, BECAUSE OF CONTINUING SENSITIVITIES OVER THE RETURN OF SOME OF THESE PEOPLE TO THEIR FORMER AREAS.

5. IN MEANTIME, LIM BIAN KIE INFORMS US THAT SINAR HARAPAN REPORTED SABAM SIAGIAN, WHO IS HIGHLY RESPECTED LOCALLY FOR HIS OBJECTIVITY AND INDEPENDENCE, WILL BEGIN INTERVIEWING EARLIER RELEASEES AND BURUR ISLAND DETAINEES IN MID-AUGUST. RESULTS OF THESE INTERVIEWS ARE TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED TO BE PUBLISHED TOWARD END OF AUGUST AND SOME OF RLEASEES WILL BE IDENTIFIED BY NAME.

6. ADMIRAL SUDOMO TOLD AMBASSADOR HE WOULD BE WILLING TO FURNISH EMBASSY THE NAMES OF FORMER DETAINEES RELEASED IN 1975 AND 1976 ON UNDERSTANDING THAT THEY WOULD BE USED ONLY FOR OUR INTERNAL INFORMATION. COMMENT: WE WOULD APPRECIATE DEPT'S VIEWS ON WHETHER WE SHOULD RESPOND TO THIS OFFER.

7. SUDOMO SAID GOI IS MAKING PROGRESS ON REACHING UNDER-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STANDING WITH ICRC WHICH WOULD PERMIT RESUMTION OF ICRC VISITS TO DETENTION CENTERS, PROBABLY LATER THIS YEAR. SUDOMO SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT ICRC WAS DIFFERENT FROM OTHER ORGANIZATIONS PUBLICLY PRESSING FOR RELEASE OF DETAINEES AND THAT IS WOULD RESPECT INDONESIAN CONFIDENCES. SUDOMO DESCRIBED PROBLEM AS ONE OF RESTORING MUTUAL CONFIDENCE BETWEEN TWO PARTIES. IT WAS IMPORTANT, HE SAID, FOR ICRC TO CHOOSE RIGHT MAN TO HEAD ITS TEAM. SUDOMO INDICATED THAT HE HAD RECEIVED WORD FROM AMBASSADOR PESTALOZZI OF ICRC WILLINGNESS TO "NEUTRALIZE" THE MAY 4 ICRC BULLTING ANNOUNCEMENT. WHEN AMBASSADOR ASKED WHETHER GOI WOULD PERMIT ICRC TO INTERVIEW DETAINEES IN PRIVATE, SUDOMO REPLIED, "THIS IS A MATTER FOR MUTUAL CONFIDENCE." LIM BIAN KIE LATER STATED, HOWEVER, THAT DECISION TO PERMIT PRIVATE INTERVIEWS HAS IN FACT BEEN MADE. ACCORDING TO LIM, THE ONLY ICRC CONDITION STILL GIVING GOI SERIOUS PROBLEMS IS REQUEST THAT GOI PROVIDE ICRC LIST OF DETAINEES.

8. LIM HAS WRITTEN ICRC DELEGATE GENERAL NESSI THAT AN INDONESIAN RED CROSS REPRESENTATIVE PLANS TO VISIT GENEVA IN NEAR FUTURE TO HELP CLEAR UP REMAINIG OBSTACLES TO VISIT.

9. SEPTTEL COMMENTS ON RECENT INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF
JURISTS AND AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CRITICISM OF GOI
HUMAN RIGHTS PERFORMANCE.
NEWSOM

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